

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

In item 3 on page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 9-14, 17-19, 22-29 and 34 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of their respective base claims and intervening claims.

It is respectfully pointed out, however, that allowable claims 9 and 25 are already in independent form. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 9 and 25, as well as claims 10-13 and 26-29 respectively depending therefrom, are in condition for immediate allowance.

With respect to the other allowable claims, the Examiner's indication of the allowability of claims 14, 17-19, 22-24 and 34 is respectfully acknowledged. These claims, however, have not been rewritten in independent form at this time since, as set forth in detail hereinbelow, it is respectfully submitted that their respective parent claims, as amended, now also recite allowable subject matter.

THE CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1 and 15 have been amended to recite the features of the mode selection means (40 in Fig. 2) for selecting an image adjustment mode, mode selection means for selecting an image

adjustment mode, wherein test pattern information stored in a test pattern memory is recorded on a first recording material, the first recording material is then placed on the document holder with reference to the document positioning member, and the test pattern information is then copied onto a second recording material, and wherein the test pattern information recorded on the first recording material is compared with the test pattern information copied onto the second recording material.

In addition, claims 1 and 15 have also been amended to recite that the detecting means detects an inclination angle of the document positioning member with respect to a main body of the image reading apparatus according to the comparison result of the test pattern information.

It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to claims 1 and 15 are supported by the disclosure in the specification at page 25, line 22 through page 29, line 9..

And as disclosed in the specification at page 36, line 22 through page 37, line 3, with the structure of the present invention as recited in amended claims 1 and 15, "an accurate image which is free from inclination can be formed even when no fine adjustment is made for positional adjustment on a document positioning member which is used for placing the document".

Claims 5 and 20, moreover, have been amended to recite the features of the mode selection means (40 in Fig. 7) for selecting an image adjustment mode, wherein test pattern information stored in a test pattern memory is recorded on a first recording

material, the first recording material is then placed on a document placing table and automatically conveyed to a reading position on the document holder, and the test pattern information is then copied onto a second recording material while the first recording material is stopped, and wherein the test pattern information recorded on the first recording material is compared with the test pattern information copied onto the second recording material.

In addition, claims 5 and 20 have also been amended to recite that the detecting means detects an inclination angle of the test pattern information according to the comparison result of the test pattern information.

It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to claims 5 and 20 are supported by the disclosure in the specification at page 33, line 1 through page 34, line 19.

And as disclosed in the specification at page 37, lines 8-13, with the structure of the present invention as recited in amended claims 5 and 20, "an accurate image which is free from inclination and/or distortion can be formed for both manual placing and automatic document feeding, when neither fine adjustment of the document position nor adjustment for the slip of a conveyance system of a document feeder is needed". (See page 37, lines 8-13).

Still further, claim 30 has been amended in a manner similar to claims 5 and 20 to recite the features of the mode selection means (40 in Fig. 7) and to recite that the detecting means

detects a distortion of the test pattern information according to the comparison result of the test pattern information.

And as disclosed in the specification at page 37, lines 19-23, with the structure of the present invention as recited in amended claim 30, "an adjustment of the mounting position for a document positioning member and an adjustment of the slip of a conveyance system of a document feeder are simplified, and an accurate image which is free from inclination and/or distortion can be formed".

It is respectfully submitted that neither previously cited USP 5,211,386 ("Baba") nor newly cited USP 5,034,781 ("Watanabe") discloses, teaches or suggests the above described structural features and advantageous effects of the "mode selection means" recited in each of amended independent claims 1, 5, 15, 20, and 30. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in each of these claims, as well as each of claims 2-4, 6-8, 14, 16-19, 21-24, and 31-34 respectively depending therefrom, patentably distinguishes over the combination of Baba and Watanabe under 35 USC 103.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims are now in condition for immediate allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to claims 1, 5, 15, 20 and 30 be approved and entered under 37 CFR 1.116.

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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims, and the passing of the application to issue are respectfully solicited.

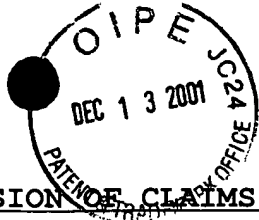
If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION OF CLAIMS SHOWING AMENDMENTS MADE

Claims 1, 5, 15, 20, and 30 have been amended as follows:

1. (Second Amended) An image reading apparatus,
comprising:

a document holder on which a document is placed;

a document positioning member with reference to which
5 the document is positioned on the document holder;

mode selection means for selecting an image adjustment
mode,

wherein test pattern information stored in a test
pattern memory is recorded on a first recording material, the
10 first recording material is then placed on the document holder
with reference to the document positioning member, and the test
pattern information is then copied onto a second recording
material, and

wherein the test pattern information recorded on the
15 first recording material is compared with the test pattern
information copied onto the second recording material;

means for detecting an inclination angle of the
document positioning member with respect to a main body of the
image reading apparatus according to the comparison result of the
20 test pattern information, and for storing inclination information
based on the detected inclination angle of the document
positioning member;

an image reading device for reading an image of the
document positioned on the document holder; and

10

25 a correcting device for correcting an inclination angle
of the image read by the image reading device in accordance with
the stored inclination information.

5 5. (Second Amended) An image reading apparatus comprising:
a document holder on which a document is placed;
a document feeder for feeding the document in a feeding
direction and stopping the document on the document holder;
mode selection means for selecting an image adjustment
mode,

10 wherein test pattern information stored in a test
pattern memory is recorded on a first recording material, the
first recording material is then placed on a document placing
table and automatically conveyed to a reading position on the
document holder, and the test pattern information is then copied
onto a second recording material while the first recording
material is stopped, and

15 wherein the test pattern information recorded on the
first recording material is compared with the test pattern
information copied onto the second recording material;

20 means for detecting an inclination angle of [a] the
test pattern [image] information [fed by the document feeder and
stopped on the document holder] according to the comparison
result of the test pattern information, and for storing
inclination information based on the detected inclination angle;

an image reading device for reading an image of the document stopped on the document holder, wherein the image reading device moves in a sub-scanning direction so as to read the image; and

a correcting device for correcting an inclination angle of the image read by the image reading device in accordance with the stored inclination information.

15. (Second Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:

a document holder on which a document is placed;

a document positioning member with reference to which the document is positioned on the document holder;

mode selection means for selecting an image adjustment mode,

wherein test pattern information stored in a test pattern memory is recorded on a first recording material, the first recording material is then placed on the document holder with reference to the document positioning member, and the test pattern information is then copied onto a second recording material, and

wherein the test pattern information recorded on the first recording material is compared with the test pattern information copied onto the second recording material;

means for detecting an inclination angle of the document positioning member with respect to a main body of the

image reading apparatus according to the comparison result of the
20 test pattern information, and for storing inclination information
based on the detected inclination angle of the document
positioning member;

an image reading device for reading an image of the
document positioned on the document holder;

25 a correcting device for correcting an inclination angle
of the image read by the image reading device in accordance with
the stored inclination information; and

an image recording device for recording the image
corrected by the correcting device on a recording material.

20. (Second Amended) An image forming apparatus
comprising:

a document holder on which a document is placed;

a document feeder for feeding the document and stopping
5 the document on the document holder;

mode selection means for selecting an image adjustment
mode,

wherein test pattern information stored in a test
pattern memory is recorded on a first recording material, the
10 first recording material is then placed on a document placing
table and automatically conveyed to a reading position on the
document holder, and the test pattern information is then copied
onto a second recording material while the first recording
material is stopped, and

15 wherein the test pattern information recorded on the
first recording material is compared with the test pattern
information copied onto the second recording material;

 means for detecting an inclination angle of [a] the
test pattern [image] information [fed by the document feeder and
20 stopped on the document holder] according to the comparison
result of the test pattern information, and for storing
inclination information based on the detected information angle;

 an image reading device for reading an image of the
document stopped by the document holder, wherein the image
25 reading device moves in a sub-scanning direction so as to read
the image;

 a correcting device for correcting an inclination angle
of the image read by the image reading device in accordance with
the stored inclination information; and

30 an image recording device for recording the image
corrected by the correcting device on a recording material.

30. (Second Amended) An image [reading] forming apparatus
comprising:

 a document holder through which a document passes;

 a document feeder for feeding a document to an image
5 reading position on the document holder;

mode selection means for selecting an image adjustment
mode,

wherein test pattern information stored in a test pattern memory is recorded on a first recording material, the first recording material is then placed on a document placing table and automatically conveyed to a reading position on the document holder, and the test pattern information is then copied onto a second recording material while the first recording material is stopped, and

wherein the test pattern information recorded on the first recording material is compared with the test pattern information copied onto the second recording material;

means for detecting a distortion of [a] the test pattern [image] information [fed by the document feeder and stopped at the image reading position] according to the comparison result of the test pattern information, and for storing distortion information based on the detected distortion;

an image reading device for reading an image of the document while the document passes through the image reading position; and

a correcting device for correcting a distortion of the image read by the image reading device in accordance with the stored distortion information.